Mr. P. Sankunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—May I know who was at fault?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishar*).—I made a surprise visit to the ferry at the time when the school boat was coming and I say the general tendency among school boys and girls—this tendency is not peculiar to these boys, and children everywhere—to go to the front portion and further each one wants to get down first. My information is that it was an accident. It was said that one of the boys threatened some girls that he would capsize the boat one day and it seems he was successful.

Mr. P. Sakunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—Did not all the people fall into the water?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—No. As I was saying it was a dangerous experiment to try and therefore I wrote to the Police Commissioner to post a policeman there when the school-boat comes to have an eye on the boys.

Mr. P. Sankunni Menon (*Elankunnapuzha*).—Did not they fall in the water?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—At any rate, they did not fall. But there was an accident.

Diseases—Cocoanut trees in the State—Remedy for.

113. **Mr. A. Narayana Menon** (*Vyttila*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether they are aware of diseases for cocoanut trees in the State;

(2) whether they have made any estimate of the extent to which trees have been infected with the diseases; if so, to what extent and in which areas; when was it done; what is the present position of the infection;

(3) whether any investigation as to the cause of the diseases has been made in the State; if so, by whom and when and with what results; was any outside agency consulted; has any remedy been found out; if so, what;

(4) has there been any appreciable check to the spread of the diseases; if so, in what shape;

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(5) was any remission of tax granted for trees that were infected;

(6) were leaves of trees cut off and burnt in the past; what percentage of such trees began to yield fruits after the said operation; how many years were required for them to become growing trees; were they free from diseases after the above operation; are these operations carried on now; if so, through what machinery;

(7) have the Government any expert who has made a special study of those diseases and of the treatment thereof; if so, who is the expert; what are his qualifications?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar *(Director of Agriculture).*—

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes. About 70,000 trees including the suspected cases are estimated to be under infection. The areas are in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk, particularly in the Villages of Mattancheri, Palluruthi, Rameswaram, Ernakulam, Elamkulam, Maradu, Poonithura and Nadamel. The estimate was made in 1935. The infection at present is slightly on the increase.

(3) Yes. Investigations were conducted by Mr. (now Dr. William Mac Rai, Government Mycologist, Madras, during the years 1914—1916 (2) by Mr. S. Sundara Raman, Government Mycologist, Madras in 1920 and subsequent years (3) by Mr. M. Sankara Menon, now Economic Botanist, Cochin State in 1923 and subsequent years and (4) at present by Dr. K. P. V. Menon, Plant Pathologist under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and working on cocoanut diseases in Travancore. A fungus of the Penicillium genus with a Cephalo sponium stage was isolated as the organism producing the disease. The remedy found consists of spraying and manuring-spraying with Bordeaux mixture to kill the disease—producing organisms and manuring to improve the vitality of the trees.

(4) The treated gardens showed some temporary improvement the shape of putting forth healthy shoots as against the diseased shoots of the infected trees and there was also improvement in the yield of the trees.

(5) No.

(6) Yes. Almost all the trees are bearing after the operations. There was no break in the growth of the trees. The trees continued to put forth fresh shoots even when the operations were being carried out. Even in cases where all but a few

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of the central shoots were cut, the full crown was again formed in two to two and a half years time. The trees were liable to re-infestation even after the above operations. These operations are carried on now also wherever such infestations of pests are observed. These operations are carried on through the agency of the Entomologist and Scientific Fieldman.

(7) Yes. The Economic Botanist. He is a Graduate in Arts and Agriculture and had special training in Mycology at the Imperial Research Institute, Pusa. Regarding the control of Pests, the expert employed is the Entomologist. He is a Graduate in arts and Agriculture and has undergone post-graduate course in Entomology.

Mr. A. Narayana Menon (*Vyttila*).—In the answer it is said that the disease is slightly on the increase. I want to know to what extent?

Mr. President.—To a slight extent, I suppose.

Cocoanut industry in the State—Improvements to.

114. **Mr. A. Narayana Menon** (*Vyttila*).— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what steps, if any, they have taken to improve the market price of cocoanuts and cocoanut products and oil due to competion from Ceylon;

(2) (a) have the attention of the Government been drawn to the proceedings of the All Kerala Cocoanut Growers' Conference held recently at Karunagapilli under the Presidency of the Hon'ble V. I Muniswami Pillay;

(b) if so, whether the Cochin Government intend taking action on the resolutions passed and the observations made by the President and by Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar who opened the Conference as essential steps to be taken to protect the Cocoanut industry in Cochin and other parts of Kerala; if so; in what shapes;

(3) has any application been made to the Government to appoint a Cocoanut Board in Cochin; if so, has it been complied with;

(4) has any marketing society of cocoanut growers in the State been organised in the State; it not, why not; has any propaganda on this subject been carried on by the Department of Co-operation; if so, in what shape?

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